

Message Text

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H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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SPO (5: U.S.-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS: RECENT PRESS COVERAGE

1. WITHIN PAST WEEK ALL MAJOR JAPANESE PAPERS PUBLISHED EDITORIALS ON U.S.-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. MOST STIDENT IN TONE WAS "ASAHI" (AUG. 14) WHICH CHARACTERIZED U.S. UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE AS BEHAVIOR UNBECOMING TO A LEADER OF "WORLD ORDER" AND PREDICTED THAT IF U.S. SHOULD IN EFFECT DENY JAPAN "THE RIGHT TO LIVE" BY SEVERELY CUTTING NORTH PACIFIC FISHING QUOTAS,THE "JAPANESE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS ABOUT THE U.S. WILL BE SHAKEN TO THE ROOTS." THIS EDITORIAL SAID PROSPECTS FOR JAPAN IN NEGOTIATIONS ARE GLOOMY BECAUSE THE OTHER N. PACIFIC FISHING NATIONS, USSR AND ROK APPEAR CLOSE TO SIGNING AGREEMENTS. "ASAHI" PREDICTED USSR AND OTHER COASTAL STATES WILL FOLLOW U.S. EXAMPLE IN DECREASING JAPANESE FISH CATCH AND, URGING GOJ DELTO NEGOTIATE TENTACIOUSLY, SAID "HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY."

2. "MAINICHI" (AUG. 16) APPEALED TO USG TO PSTPONE ENFORCEMENT
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OF NEW FISHERY LAW AT LEAST UNTILLOS CONCLUDED AND

NOTED THAT LOS TEXT DOES NOT ENDORSE CONCEPT OF COASTAL NATION'S RIGHT TO APPORTION FISH CATCH UNILATERALLY. THE ESSENTIAL SPIRIT OF LOS, "MAINICHI" CONTINUED, IS THAT FISHERY RESOURCES SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED AS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF MANKIND RATHER THAN TAKEN BY A FEW BIG POWERS. IN THIS VIEW, "MAINICHI" EDITORIALIZED, JAPAN SHOULD COOPERATE MORE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH AS YET HAVE NO FISHING CAPACITY. "YOMIURI" (AUG. 16) ECHOED "ASAHI'S" VIEW THAT U.S. 200-MILE LAW IS A REGRETTABLE ACTION FOR A COUNTRY OF THE U.S.'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND SAID IT HOPED U.S. WOULD RESPECT JAPAN'S TRADITIONAL FISHING RECORD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT AND MINIMIZE THE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION CAUSED TO JAPAN. "YOMIURI" EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITIES IN THE LAW FOR OVERESTIMATION OF U.S. FISHING CAPACITY AND CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL TO U.S. TO APPROACH NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL, LONG-RANGE DIPLOMATIC VISION IN ORDER TO PRESERVE FRIENDLY U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS. "TOKYO SHIMBUN" (AUG. 18) PREDICTED THAT THE FISHERY PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLVED BY HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AUGUST 17 "NIHON KEIZAI" (P.9) RAN SEVERAL LENGTHY NEWS ARTICLES FEATURING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE U.S. FISHERY LAW. ARTICLE ON QUOTA PROSPECTS SAID FISHING INDUSTRY IS WORRIED THAT COUNTRIES, SUCH AS POLAND AND S.KOREA, WHICH HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS WILL GET PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN QUOTA ALLOCATIONS. "AS A RESULT SOME OF THE LARGE FISHING COMPANIES IN VOICES VERGING ON DESPAIR HAVE BEGUN TO SAY THAT JAPAN WILL DO WELL NEXT YEAR TO GET HALF THIS YEAR'S CATCH AND WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VESSELS," THE REPORT CONCLUDED. M. SHOESMITH

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